



NASA CASE NO. ARC-11,426-1

PRINT FIG. 1

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(NASA-Case-ARC-11426-1) VISUAL
ACCOMMODATION TRAINER-TESTER Patent
Application (NASA) 20 p HC A02/BF A01

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THIS NASA INVENTION APPEARS TO HAVE
EXCELLENT COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL

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OF POOR QUALITY

SERIAL NO. 526,741
FILE DATE: August 26, 1983

NASA CASE NO. AFC-11426-1

VISUAL ACCOMMODATION TRAINER-TESTER

Invention Abstract

This invention relates to a device for training of the human visual accommodation system. Specifically, the device is useful for training a person to volitionally control his focus to his far point (normally infinity) from a position of myopia due to functional causes. The functional causes could be due, for example, to a behavioral accommodative spasm or the effects of an empty field. The device may also be used to measure accommodation, the accommodation resting position and the near and far points of vision.

The ophthalmic instrument (FIG. 1) includes a movable stage supported by a rail 18. Motion of the stage 20 to and from eyepiece 70 is produced by rotation of knob 22. The following elements are all aligned with optical axis 74: eyepiece 70, lens 64, lens 58, aperture 42, target 36, lens 32 and light source 30. Apertures 48 and 52 can be moved to the optical axis 74 by means of solenoids 44, 46 and switching circuit 78 (FIG. 2). Image 72 of target 36 is moved to and from the test subject when stage 20 is moved. The apertures are interchanged as necessary for the various measurement and training functions. The measurements are read out on diopter scale 23. In the training mode, for example, aperture 52 is employed and the subject strives to focus at his vision far point (normally infinity). When this occurs, only one image of target 36 is seen. Otherwise the subject visualizes two images, each one differently colored.

Never before has there been one single ophthalmic instrument that would perform all of the above-mentioned training and measurement functions. Previous training instruments lacked these measurement capabilities, were expensive and complex electro-mechanical devices, and were very difficult to master. In contradistinction, the subject invention is cost effective and very easy to operate. The components may be packaged in a very small volume. It is possible, for instance, to helmet-mount the device for human engineering investigations involving piloting aircraft, driving cars, operating computer terminals and so forth.

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United States Patent [19]

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[11] Patent Number: 4,778,268

[45] Date of Patent: Oct. 18, 1988

[54] VISUAL ACCOMMODATION TRAINER-TESTER

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[21] Appl. No.: 827,185

[22] Filed: Feb. 6, 1986

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 526,741, Aug. 26, 1983, abandoned.

[51] Int. Cl.⁴ A61B 3/00

[52] U.S. Cl. 351/203; 351/237

[58] Field of Search 351/200, 203, 237, 239,
351/243

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,408,846 10/1983 Balliet 351/203

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Randle, Volitional Control of Visual Accommodation,
Conf. Proc. No. 82, Adaptation and Acclimatisation in
Aero Space Medicine, Germany 9/1970.

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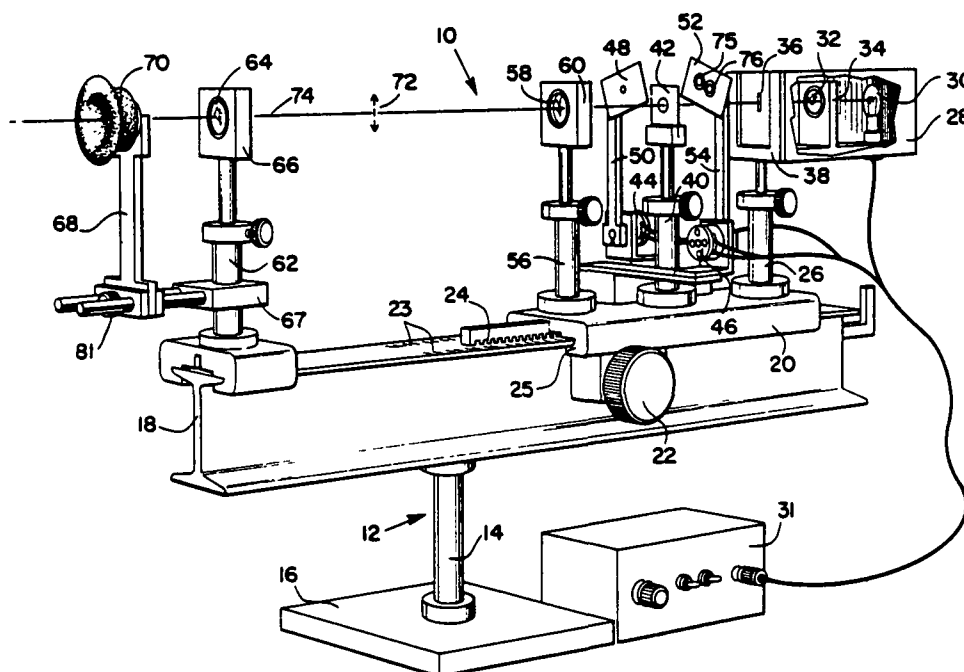
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[57] ABSTRACT

The invention is an apparatus for training of the human visual accommodation system. Specifically, the apparatus is useful for training a person to volitionally control his focus to his far point (normally infinity) from a position of myopia due to functional causes. The functional causes could be due, for example, to a behavioral accommodative spasm or the effects of an empty field. The device may also be used to measure accommodation, the accommodation resting position and the near and far points of vision. The device comprises a number of optical elements arranged on a single optical axis (74). Several of the elements are arranged in order on a movable stage (20) in fixed relationship to each other: a light source (30), a lens (32), a target (36), an aperture (42), (48) or (52) and second lens (58). On base (18) and in fixed relationship to each other are eyepiece (70) and third lens (64). Stage (20) generates an image (72) of target (36) and the stage is movable with respect to base (18) by means of knob (22). The device is utilized for the various training and test functions by following a series of procedural steps, and interchanging the apertures as necessary for the selected procedure.

24 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



176, 1925

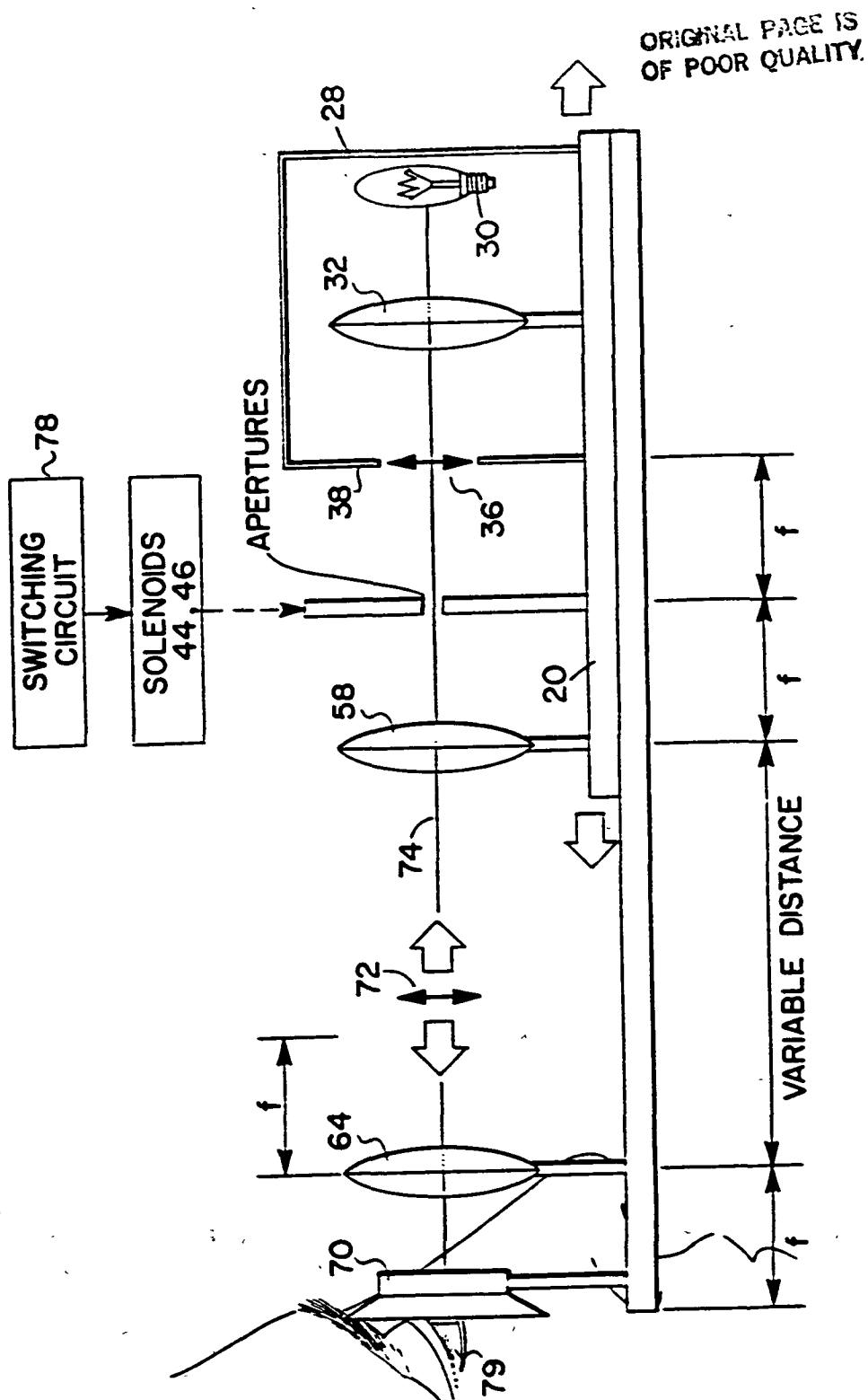


FIG. 2

NASA CASE NO. ARC-11426-1

VISUAL ACCOMMODATION TRAINER-TESTER

Origin of the Invention

The invention described herein was made by an employee of the United States Government and may be manufactured and used by or for the Government for governmental purposes without the payment of any royalties thereon or therefor.

Background of the Invention

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a device for the training and measurement of the human visual accommodation system. Accommodation is the automatic adjustment of the eye for seeing at different distances and is effected by changes in the convexity of the crystalline lens. Specifically, the device is a training aid for teaching subjects to relax the eye muscles which are used to focus a sharp image on the retina of the eye and to instead focus at infinity. This is called relaxation of accommodation.

2. Description of the Prior Art

A normal, or emmetropic, eye will focus light rays from a distance on the retina by means of complementary deflections of the cornea, crystalline lens, and fluid of the eye. Light rays reflected from a distant object (beyond 25 feet) are considered to be parallel. With a nearer object, however, the reflected rays tend to diverge so that unless some correction is made, the rays will not focus on the retina. The correction is known as accommodation and is achieved through alteration of the anterior lens surface curvature by action of the ciliary muscle so that a retinal focus is

1 obtained. It is often necessary or desirable, for both
2 medical and research purposes, to cause a person to
3 relax his eye accommodation, that is to focus on a
4 plane as far distant as possible, theoretically at
5 infinity for a normal eye. Perhaps a most common
6 instance when relaxation of accommodation is desirable
7 is when an ophthalmologist examines a patient to
8 determine whether or not he needs glasses. The
9 ophthalmologist accomplishes this by using drugs to
10 paralyze the eye muscles which control the eye lens or
11 by changing a series of glass lenses in front of the
12 patient's eye, using a technique called "fogging."
13 Thus, one objective of an ophthalmologist is to
14 prescribe glasses which allow the patient to see
15 far-away objects clearly, provided his accommodation is
16 fully relaxed. In order for the ophthalmologist to do
17 this, the accommodation must first be fully relaxed
18 before refraction measurements are taken.
19 Accommodation relaxation can be important for a number
20 of purposes other than just determining prescriptions
21 for glasses as the inventor has discovered.
22

23 There are many situations where keen distant vision is
24 very important. For example, it is necessary for all
25 pilots to be able to perceive the existence of other
26 aircraft in the airspace immediately ahead of their
27 aircraft. Additionally, military pilots need to be
28 able to detect other aircraft and identify them as
29 friendly or hostile at the farthest distance possible.
30 A need has developed for a device to train one to
31 overcome empty field myopia and to provide therapy for
32 behavioral myopia. Some past optometers employed such
33 complex electro-mechanical systems that their operation
34 was beyond nearly all people except the originators.
35 For example, when the Cornsweet and Crane optometer,
36 citation below, was turned over to a skilled Government
37 scientist, it took the scientist over two months of

1 concentrated study and practice to even make the device
2 work with modest success. If training human visual
3 accommodation is ever to have wide application and
4 become a real social benefit then a really practical,
5 simple and inexpensive device must be provided.
6 Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention
7 to provide a device that is economical to fabricate,
8 simple to operate, maintain, and transport that will:
9 train the human visual accommodation system
10 independently of other visuo-muscular systems; provide
11 an accommodation stimulus and measurement tool in
12 vision research; measure the accommodation resting
13 position and the visual near and far points.
14

15 There is no known prior art device capable of
16 performing all of these functions let alone one that is
17 simple to operate and economical to construct. An
18 exemplary prior art relaxer is disclosed in U.S. Patent
19 No. 3,843,240 wherein a defocused flashing source of
20 light is viewed through a pin-hole aperture to produce
21 relaxation of the eye's accommodation powers. U.S.
22 Patent No. 1,475,698 issued to Henker shows an
23 apparatus for the objective measurement of the
24 refractive value of the principal point of the eye.
25 U.S. Patent No. 3,602,580 pertains to a method and
26 apparatus for simultaneously refracting both eyes of a
27 patient wherein a narrow beam of light is directed into
28 each eye at a point spaced from the optical axis of the
29 eye. An optometer of the Scheiner type is revealed in
30 U.S. Patent No. 1,235,170 issued to Thorner.
31 Expensive, servo-controlled optometers that are large,
32 complex and difficult to use are mentioned in the
33 following publications: Servo-Controlled Infrared
34 Optometer, Cornsweet and Crane, Journal of the Optical
35 Society of America, Vol. 60, No. 4, April 1970, pp.
36 548-554; Volitional Control of Visual Accommodation,
37 R.J. Randle, AGARD Conference Proceedings No. 82 on

1 Adaptation and Acclimatisation in Aerospace Medicine,
2 September 1970; and Accurate Three-Dimensional
3 Eyetracker, Crane and Steele, Applied Optics, Vol. 17,
4 March 1, 1978, pp. 691-705.
5

6 Summary of Invention

7 The present invention is an apparatus for training the
8 human visual accommodation system, for measuring the
9 accommodation, the accommodation resting position, and
10 the visual near and far points. The training of the
11 visual accommodation system is accomplished through a
12 defocus feedback that is external to the natural,
13 blurred-retinal-image feedback loop. The apparatus
14 employs very few components and is very easy to use.
15 The apparatus comprises a stationary base with a
16 movable stage mounted on one end of the base. Five
17 elements are mounted on the movable stage: a light
18 source mounted at one end of the stage; a target
19 mounted at the middle of the stage; a first lens
20 mounted on the stage between the light source and the
21 target; a second lens mounted at the opposite end of
22 the stage; and a plurality of apertures are mounted on
23 the stage between the second lens and the target. An
24 eyepiece is mounted on the opposite end of the base;
25 and a third lens is mounted on the base between the
26 eyepiece and the second lens. The elements of the
27 invention mounted on the movable stage are all in fixed
28 relationship to each other and in movable relationship
29 to the third lens and the eyepiece.
30

31 Brief Description of the Drawings

32 The invention will be more fully understood from the
33 following detailed description taken in conjunction
34 with the accompanying drawings in which:
35

36 FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the invention.
37

1 FIGURE 2 is a schematic diagram showing the elements of
2 the invention and the location of the image of target
3 36.
4

5 Detailed Description of the Invention

6 Figure 1 shows a presently preferred embodiment of the
7 invention for laboratory use, designated generally by
8 the numeral 10. In the center of the figure is shown a
9 stand 12 having a rod 14 extending upward vertically
10 from a base 16. Attached to the top of stand 12 is a
11 base plate or rail 18. Mounted on one end of base
12 plate 18 is movable stage 20 which is driven by means
13 of a rack 24 and pinion gear (not shown). Rotatable
14 knob 22 is coupled to the pinion gear. Stage 20 may be
15 moved toward or away from eyepiece 70 on base plate 18
16 by rotating knob 22 clockwise or counter-clockwise. A
17 diopter and/or distance scale 23 is affixed to base 18
18 adjacent to rack 24 as for example by etching or
19 painting. Scale 23 is read by using the edge 25 of
20 stage 20 as a pointer.
21

22 A number of elements of the invention are all mounted
23 on movable stage 20 in fixed relationship to each
24 other. Vertically adjustable rod 26 affixed to stage
25 20 supports rectangular box 28 which contains a light
26 source 30 and a first lens 32 mounted in holder 34. A
27 target 36 is situated on end 38 of box 28. The target
28 may transmit light therethrough from light source 30
29 with the area adjacent thereto being opaque or vice
30 versa. End 38 of box 28 may be, for example, a
31 photographic transparency with a desired image
32 centrally positioned.
33

34 Mounted on vertically adjustable stand 40 adjacent to
35 target 36 is a "wide open" aperture 42 about 8 mm in
36 diameter. The aperture is positioned so that the
37 optical axis 74 of lens 32 and the other lenses passes

centrally therethrough. Apertures 48 and 52 supported by pivotable arms 50 and 54, respectively may be moved onto the optical axis 74 by means of high speed solenoids 44 and 46, respectively. Aperture 48 is a "pinhole" aperture with an orifice of approximately 0.3 mm in diameter, whereas aperture 52 is a "Scheiner" aperture having two orifices about 0.5 mm in diameter, separated by 3.0 mm. When solenoid 46 is actuated, aperture 52 is moved to the position where the optical axis 74 bisects the two orifices. Apertures 42, 48 and 52 are not depicted to scale in Fig. 1. When the device is in use there is either one aperture on the optical axis (42) or two (42 and 48, or 42 and 52). As it is intended that aperture 42 be larger than aperture 48 or aperture 52, there is only one effective aperture on the optical axis at any given time (the smaller one). A switching circuit 78 (see Fig. 2) housed in cabinet 31 energizes solenoids 44 and 46. Specically, the switching circuit provides these selectable modes of operation:

1. The energization of solenoid 44 to move aperture 48 to the optical axis 74.
2. The energization of solenoid 46 to move aperture 52 to the optical axis 74.
3. The automatic alternate energization of the solenoids so that apertures 48 and 52 are alternately on optical axis 74. In this mode, it is preferable that the switching circuit include a user-selectable timing circuit so that the "on-axis" interval of aperture 52 may be varied.

Cabinet 31 also houses a power supply to provide power to lamp 30.

1 The orifices of Scheiner aperture 52 are covered with
2 different colored filters 75 and 76, respectively.
3 These filters may be, for example, red and green.
4 These filters provide a cue for the direction of
5 defocus when the image is split. On the proximal end
6 of stage 20 is mounted a vertically adjustable stand 56
7 with second lens 58 and lens holder 60.

8
9 On the proximal end of rail 18 is a vertically
10 adjustable stand 62 which supports lens holder 66 and
11 third lens 64. Also attached to stand 62 is a bracket
12 67 supporting eyepiece 70.
13

14 Figure 2 shows the preferred spacing of certain items
15 in the trainer-tester. Back-lighted target 36 is a
16 fixed distance from second lens 58, twice the focal
17 length (f) of lens 58. An image 72 of target 36 is
18 formed the same distance on the other, left, side of
19 lens 58. Of course as stage 20 is moved with respect
20 to base 18 by means of knob 22, image 72 is moved with
21 respect to stationary third lens 64. Eyepiece 70 is
22 situated one focal length from third lens 64 and lamp
23 30 is spaced one focal length from first lens 32. The
24 field of view of the target is determined by the size
25 of the aperture 42, 48 or 52 and the distance of the
26 target from the aperture. With the aperture diameters
27 mentioned above and if lens 58 has a focal length of 10
28 centimeters, for example, there will be sufficient
29 field of view available to stimulate a large portion of
30 the retina of the viewing eye 79 and thus, a full
31 accommodation response.
32

33 The several modes of operation of the apparatus will
34 now be described.
35

36 Measurement of the Far Point of Vision
37

1 The vision far point (punctum remotum of accommodation)
2 is defined in the Dictionary of Visual Science,
3 Schapero, M., et al., Chilton Co., Phila., New York,
4 1960 as:

5
6 The conjugate focus of the retina (fovea) when the
7 accommodation is relaxed or at its minimum. In
8 emmetropia, the far point is said to be at
9 infinity; in myopia, it is at some finite distance
10 in front of the eye; in hyperopia, it is at some
11 finite (virtual) distance behind the eye.
12

13 What needs to be determined, therefore, is the optical
14 distance from the subject's eye, at, and beyond which,
15 the image of target 36 can no longer be kept in focus,
16 i.e., when accommodation is fully relaxed. If the
17 point at which the image can no longer be kept in focus
18 is in front of the focal plane 80 of lens 64 the far
19 point is closer than infinity and the eye is said to be
20 myopic or "near-sighted." On the other hand, if the
21 point is behind focal plane 80 (to the right of the
22 plane in Fig. 2) the far point is said to hyperopic,
23 (hypermetropic) or "far-sighted." If the point is
24 right at the focal plane 80, the eye is then deemed
25 emmetropic (normal).
26

27 For the measurement of the far point of vision the
28 subject is preferably seated in front of device 10 with
29 the entrance pupil plane of one eye placed at the
30 eyepiece 70. The lamp 30 is illuminated and the
31 wide-open aperture 42 is in place on optical axis 74.
32 An image of target 36 is found at 72. This image is
33 the object for lens 64 and the eye, and thus becomes
34 the visual stimulus for the eye. The position of stage
35 20 is determined by the rotation of knob 22 which in
36 turn determines the position of the subject's stimulus
37 with respect to lens 64.

1 To start the measurement process the stimulus is
2 initially placed by the examiner between lens 64 and
3 focal plane 80. This requires the subject to exert
4 some accommodative effort, an amount that is dependent
5 upon where the stimulus has been placed with respect to
6 lens 64. The scale 23 imprinted on base 18 and
7 corresponding pointer (proximal end of stage 20)
8 enables the measurement of the diopter value of power
9 required at the eye to focus the stimulus (image 72).
10 For convenience, scale 23 may also include a vision
11 distance scale in addition to the dioptric scale to
12 save the examiner the time needed to make the
13 conversion from diopters to distance. The subject is
14 requested to rotate the knob 22 to move the
15 accommodation stimulus toward focal plane 80 and to
16 stop the movement when the stimulus first appears to
17 blur. When the blurring first occurs the point or
18 scale 23 aligned with the pointer is read.
19

20 Because of the high variability in biological response
21 systems, it is preferable to measure the far point by
22 approaching it from both directions and then taking the
23 average reading after several trials. That is, the
24 subject moves the stimulus away from lens 64, from a
25 position set by the examiner, until the stimulus blurs,
26 the examiner reads the scale, the subject moves the
27 stimulus, from a position selected by the examiner,
28 towards lens 64 until the blurring of the stimulus
29 stops, and the examiner reads the scale. This cycle is
30 repeated for as many times as is deemed appropriate by
31 the examiner and an average value of the dioptric
32 distance is computed. This mean dioptric distance is
33 the refractive error of the eye under test, and when
34 converted to distance (through scale 23 or a simple
35 calculation) is the monocular far point of vision of
36 that eye.
37

1 Measurement of the Near Point of Vision

2
3 The Dictionary cited above defines the accommodative
4 near point (punctum proximum) as:

5
6 The point representing the maximum dioptric
7 stimulus to which the eye can accommodate. Hence,
8 usually the nearest point anteriorly on which the
9 eye can focus.

10
11 The measurement process for determining the near point
12 of vision is quite similar to the previous process.
13 The measurement begins when the examiner, using knob
14 22, places the stimulus between lens 64 and focal plane
15 80. The subject then uses the knob 22 to move stage 20
16 and stimulus 72 toward him thus increasing the
17 accommodative power required at the eye at eyepiece 70
18 to focus the stimulus. When the stimulus first starts
19 to blur, the subject stops the movement of the stage 20
20 and the examiner notes where the pointer has stopped on
21 scale 23. The bracketing procedure used above is also
22 preferably employed here. In accordance with that
23 procedure the examiner places the stimulus close to
24 lens 64 such that it is too close to be focussed and
25 will be observed as blurred. The subject then moves
26 the stage 20 away from him until the stimulus first
27 appears in focus. When the movement is stopped, the
28 examiner reads scale 23. This blurring and clearing
29 (approaching and receding stimulus) procedure is
30 repeated as many times as is considered necessary by
31 the examiner and a mean value of the several scale
32 readings is calculated. This average value of
33 accommodation, when converted to distance from
34 diopters, is the monocular near point of vision of that
35 eye.
36
37

1 It is well known that as a visual stimulus approaches
2 the eye the pupil decreases in size as accommodation
3 increases. The decreased pupil size causes increased
4 depth of field and facilitates accommodation. This
5 often results in a lazy or lagging response which does
6 not necessarily indicate the true capability of the
7 visual neuro-muscular system. To insure that the full
8 accommodation range of the subject will be tested, the
9 examiner may dilate the subject's eyes with a
10 mydriatic. The mydriatic keeps the pupil large,
11 deprives the eye of great depth-of-field, and fully
12 taxes the accommodation capabilities.

13
14 Normally a defocused image is a blurred image.
15 However, if an optical aperture having two laterally
16 displaced orifices is placed in front of a lens, a
17 single image of a point (or extended) source will be
18 formed in a plane on the other side of the lens,
19 conjugate to the object; all other planes are not
20 conjugate to the object--they are defocused--so two
21 images of the source will be formed. These images will
22 be separated by a distance dependent upon the distance
23 between the two small apertures and the distance of the
24 images from the conjugate plane. Between the conjugate
25 plane and the lens each image will lie on the same side
26 of the optical axis as the aperture which formed it; on
27 the side of the conjugate plane away from the lens each
28 image will lie on the opposite side of the optical
29 axis. Such a two-orifice aperture is known as a
30 Scheiner aperture.

31
32 For measuring both the near point and the far point,
33 the Scheiner aperture 52 may be used instead of, or
34 alternately, with the wide open aperture 42. When
35 aperture 52 is moved to the optical axis 74 by means of
36 solenoid 46, the subject sees a single target image 72
37 only when it is in focus; the retina is conjugate to

1 72. For other situations, namely when image 72 is
2 defocused, the eye at eyepiece 70 observes two
3 displaced target images, each a different color (based
4 on the colors of filters 75 and 76). The separation of
5 the images is a function of the amount of defocus. It
6 is easier for the subject to distinguish two displaced
7 and different colored images than defocus blur of one
8 image so greater accommodation measurement accuracy can
9 be expected when aperture 52 is used for the near and
10 far vision measurements.
11

12 Measurement of the Resting Position

13

14 When the eye has great depth-of-field, a position of
15 tonic equilibrium occurs between the sympathetic and
16 parasympathetic nervous systems and the eye is said to
17 be at the resting position. The phenomenon, also
18 called empty or dark field myopia, is an unconscious
19 process and the resting position is almost never at
20 infinity focus. Empirical studies indicate that normal
21 eyes focus, on the average, about one meter in front of
22 the eye. For a comprehensive study see, "The Dark
23 Focus of Accommodation: Its Existence, Its Measurement,
24 Its Effects," Nicholas M. Simonelli, AFOSR Technical
25 Report Bel-79-3/AFOSR-79-7, prepared by the Behavioral
26 Engineering Laboratory, New Mexico State University,
27 November 1979.
28

29 Herein the eye is made to settle to its resting
30 position by removing the defocus blur accommodation
31 retinal stimulus. This is accomplished by placing
32 pinhole aperture 48 on optical axis 74 by means of
33 solenoid 44. The aperture increases the depth-of-field
34 so much that no stimulus blur is apparent to the eye
35 under test.
36
37

1 In accordance with this measurement, lamp 30 is
2 illuminated, aperture 48 is initially placed on optical
3 axis 74, the subject's eye to be tested is placed at
4 eyepiece 70, and the subject's other eye is occluded or
5 covered. Stage 20 is moved so that stimulus 72 is
6 positioned at the subject's previously measured far
7 point and the subject is allowed a reasonable time for
8 accommodation to settle (more than one minute). After
9 sufficient time has been allowed for settling, solenoid
10 44 is de-energized moving aperture 48 off of the
11 optical axis and aperture 52 is moved thereon by
12 solenoid 46. After an interval shorter than the
13 accommodation latency period, about 250 milliseconds,
14 aperture 52 is removed from optical axis and aperture
15 48 is returned to it. During the brief period that
16 aperture 52 is on the optical axis, the eye under
17 measurement will observe two displaced images, each
18 differently colored, if the eye has drifted to its
19 resting position. This is an easy pattern to discern
20 even during the brief period that aperture 52 is on the
21 optical axis.
22

23 At regular intervals aperture 52 is brought back to the
24 optical axis for a brief period while aperture 48 is
25 moved to its off-axis position. As the alternation
26 occurs, the subject is directed to move stage 20 in a
27 direction that will cause the two colored images to be
28 superimposed. The correct direction to move the stage
29 will be immediately apparent to the subject because of
30 the orientation of the two colored images. When the
31 images are superimposed and the stage is brought to
32 rest, the pointer for scale 23 indicates the empty
33 field myopia, that is, the resting position of the eye.
34

35 Training Visual Accommodation
36
37

1 The subject invention has three salient visual
2 accommodation training features: (1) It can open the
3 accommodation loop (nullify defocus blur) to allow
4 volitional control to be brought into play; (2) It can
5 provide a defocus cue (feedback) that is not normally
6 available in real world visual tasks; and (3) It allows
7 accommodation to be decoupled from binocular vergence
8 by using only one eye, thus limiting it to a more pure
9 accommodation response. Inasmuch as willed control is
10 initiated and completed in higher neural centers than
11 at each individual eye, both eyes benefit when only one
12 eye is trained.

13
14 The subject invention is so versatile that it permits
15 many strategies for training the volitional control of
16 accommodation. Hereinafter is but one training
17 strategy, that of volitionally controlling one's focus
18 to one's far point (normally infinity) from a position
19 of myopia due to functional causes. The functional
20 causes could be due, for example, to a behavioral
21 accommodative spasm or the effects of an empty field.
22 Other strategies will be apparent to a skilled
23 clinician.

24
25 To implement the training, the device 10 is operated as
26 it is for the measurement of the resting position and
27 the subject's eye not in the eyepiece is either
28 occluded or covered. As aperture 52 is periodically
29 and briefly positioned on optical axis 74 (alternately
30 with aperture 48), the subject is instructed to not
31 touch knob 22, but to exert volitional control on the
32 eye so as to fuse together the two different colored
33 images. After some practice, trainees can learn how to
34 drive their accommodation in the appropriate direction
35 to achieve the superimposition of images. It is not
36 known how this is accomplished nor have users of the
37 device been able to explain how they fuse the images.

1 Some trainees have been able to achieve the task with
2 as little as one hour of training. After some practice
3 and reinforcement a trainee is weaned from the device
4 and can utilize the new accommodation skill in the real
5 world. To enhance the training and make it possible
6 for the trainee to alternately view real world objects
7 and stimulus 72 without leaving eyepiece 70, a 50/50
8 beamsplitter may be added to the apparatus. When the
9 beamsplitter is added, the eyepiece is rotated 90
10 degrees so that its viewing axis is orthogonal to
11 optical axis 74. The beamsplitter is placed where the
12 two axes cross. Thus, the subject may either look
13 through the beamsplitter at the real world or look on
14 the beamsplitter for stimulus 72. When operated
15 thusly, neither eye is occluded, binocular viewing is
16 in force, and binocular accommodation is measured.
17

18 The components of the instrument need not be supported
19 on tall stands or on a base as large as 18. The
20 instrument may be repackaged in a much smaller volume.
21 It is possible, for instance, to helmet-mount the
22 device for dynamic studies in piloting aircraft,
23 driving cars, operating computer terminals, and other
24 human engineering investigations without intervention
25 in the on-going visual task.
26

27 The advantage of this invention over present day
28 devices is that it brings together multiple
29 accommodation measurement/training features in one
30 instrument that is easy to operate and economical to
31 construct. This invention combines in one ophthalmic
32 instrument a device for: (a) training the human visual
33 accommodation system independently of other
34 visuo-muscular systems; (b) measuring the visual near
35 and far points; (c) measuring the accommodation resting
36 position; and (d) use as an accommodation stimulus and
37 measurement device in vision research.

VISUAL ACCOMMODATION TRAINER-TESTER

Invention Abstract

The invention is an apparatus for training of the human visual accommodation system. Specifically, the apparatus is useful for training a person to volitionally control his focus to his far point (normally infinity) from a position of myopia due to functional causes. The functional causes could be due, for example, to a behavioral accommodative spasm or the effects of an empty field. The device may also be used to measure accommodation, the accommodation resting position and the near and far points of vision. The device comprises a number of optical elements arranged on a single optical axis (74). Several of the elements are arranged in order on a movable stage (20) in fixed relationship to each other: a light source 30, a lens (32), a target (36), an aperture (42), (48) or (52) and second lens (58). On base (18) and in fixed relationship to each other are eyepiece (70) and third lens (64). Stage (20) generates an image (72) of target (36) and the stage is movable with respect to base (18) by means of knob 22. The device is utilized for the various training and test functions by following a series of procedural steps, and interchanging the apertures as necessary for the selected procedure.

**END
DATE
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JAN 30 1984